Bonded labour

314. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps have been taken to protect and secure the release of bonded labour in the country;

(b) how many bonded labourers were freed in various States and from various sectors from 1st January, 1985 to 15th July, 1987;

(c) what action has been taken against those who are involved in keeping bonded labourers; and

(d) what are the rules and acts that exist at present for the safety protection and welfare of bonded labour in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Responsibilty for securing release of bonded labourers and for protecting their interests rests with the State Government. Complete abolition of bonded labour system has been included as one of the items in the New Twenty Point Programme-1986. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabiltation of bonded labour is in operation. Targets for rehabilitation of released bonded labour are set and the progress monitored every month.

(b) According to information received from the State Governments, 44,740 bonded labourers have been freed in various States in 1984-85 and 1986-87.

(c) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, has provisions for taking penal action against the persons who keep bonded labourers. Information about number of prosecutions launched and number of convictions obtained is not maintained by the Central Government.

(d) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Rules, 1976.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 27TH JULY, 1987.**

Setting up of family courts

*1. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many family courts have so far been set up in the country after the Family Courts Act was passed about three years ago;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to expedite the setting up of family courts at more places; and

(c) what are the reasons for the slow progress made so far in the setting up of family courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Four Family Courts have been set up in the country so far.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued Notifications under Section 1(3) of the Family Courts Act for setting up of Family Courts in the States of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Union Territories of Delhi, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These States/Union Territories are likely to set up the Family Courts soon.

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* The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 27th July, 1987 was adjourned after Obituary References. Answers to questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 28th July, 1987.

(c) It is for the State Governments/Union Territory Administration to set up these Courts and the State Governments have been reminded from time to time emphasising the need to set up family courts expeditiously.

Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

*2. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the recent trouble in the Heavy Engineering Corporation unit at Ranchi;

(b) whether the official union had betrayed the workers in a recent agreement which includes retrenchment of over 6000 hands; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to intervene in order to ensure peace in the unit?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The reasons for the recent strike and lock-out in Heavy Engineering Corporation are multiplicity of Unions, inter-union and intra-union rivalries and involvement of outside elements.

(b) and (c) There was no betrayal of workers nor any provision regarding retrenchment. Further discussions held on 24.7.87 led to amicable settlement and lock-out has been slifted with immediate effect.

Retention of DPCO measures

*3. SHRI GHAN SHYAM SINGH:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has provided under Para 5.4 of the measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and growth of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in India that accruals into Drugs Prices Equalisation Account would be protected and used for the same purpose as mentioned in the Drugs Price Control Order, 1979;

(b) what is the purpose provided for using DPEA under DPCO, 1979;

(c) whether his Ministry is proposing to retain the same purpose under the new measures; and

(d) if so, under what provision of the new measures?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the provisions of the DPCO, 1979, the amount credited to the DPEA is to be spent only:

(i) for paying to the manufacturer, importer or distributor, as the case may be, the shortfall between his retention price and the common selling price or the pooled price as the case may be for the purpose of increasing production or securing the equitable distribution and avaliability at fair prices, of drugs.

(ii) for expenses incurred by the Government for discharging the functions under paragraph 17 of the DPCO, 1979.

(c) and (d) Under the new measures, it has been decided to discontinue the system of retention and pooled pricing. Protection for indigenous production of bulk drugs, wherever necessary, would be provided through tariff mechanism. Provision would be made in the new Drug Prices Control Order to ensure that amounts which have already accrued to the DPEA and those which are likely to accrue as a result of action in the past are protected and used for the purpose stipulated in the existing DPCO, 1979.